

John Engler Governor of Michigan Chairman Paul E. Patton Governor of Kentucky Vice Chairman Raymond C. Scheppach Executive Director

November 26, 2001

The Honorable Ted Kennedy Chairman Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee United States Senate SD-428 Dirksen Senate Office Building Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable John Boehner Chairman Education and the Workforce Committee U.S. House of Representatives 2181 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515 The Honorable Judd Gregg
Ranking Member
Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee
United States Senate
SD-644 Dirksen Senate Office
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable George Miller Ranking Member Education and the Workforce Committee U.S. House of Representatives 2101 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Kennedy, Senator Gregg, Chairman Boehner, and Representative Miller:

As you complete the conference report on the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), we want to reaffirm that the nation's Governors continue to support enactment of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) legislation that makes funding a mandatory expenditure with incremental increases and eases the current federal restrictions for offsetting the costs to states for providing special education services equal to the treatment given to local school districts. Furthermore, Governors support legislation that give states and local school districts equal flexibility and embodies reform that allows states to ensure that program services fully reach all students in need of such services. Increased federal funding for IDEA, however, should not be offset by cuts to major state-federal partnership programs or reduce existing federal funding commitments to other education programs. This is consistent with both NGA policy, which is attached, and our letter of August 17, 2001.

We appreciate your efforts to move ESEA legislation this year and thank you for your consideration of our bipartisan support of mandatory full funding of IDEA. Please contact us if you have any questions or comments.

Sincerely

overnor Jose Engle

Governor Paul E. Patton